

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

29 November 2010

Present:-

Councillors Gordon (Chairman), Healey (vice Woodman), Hughes OBE, Smith, Turner and Yeomans

Apologies:-

Councillors Horsfall and Woodman

***RC/15. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2010 be signed as a correct record.

***RC/16. Death of Councillor David Viney**

(An item taken in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972).

The Chairman determined that this item should be taken as a matter of urgency so that the Committee could pay its respects to Councillor David Viney, a Member of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority and a former Member of this Committee.

Councillor Viney passed away suddenly on Saturday 27 November 2010 and the Committee undertook a minutes silence as a mark of respect. The Committee expressed its condolences to the family of Councillor Viney at this sad and difficult time.

***RC/17. Declarations of Interest**

Members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they had any personal/personal and prejudicial interests in items as set out on the agenda for this meeting and declare any such interests at this time.

No interests were declared.

RC/18. Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2010/11

The Committee considered a report of the Treasurer (RC/10/17) that set out the indicative projected outturn against the approved 2010/11 Revenue Budget based upon the spending position up to the end of October 2010.

Projections indicated that revenue spending would be £0.991m (1.32%) less than total budget. This projection was net of a transfer of £0.726m to an Earmarked Reserve (CSR 2010 Budget Strategy Reserve) from savings in the current year (2010/11) as approved by the Authority at its meeting on 3 November 2010 (Minute DSFRA/35(c) refers).

The report provided explanations for the more significant variations against the budget in terms of underspends, including wholetime pay costs [£0.400m]; retained staff [£0.104m]; non-uniformed staff [0.114m]; training expenses [£0.096m]; recovery of overpaid injury award pensions [£0.111m]; vehicle repair and maintenance costs [£0.077m] and greater income on investment than initially projected (£0.076m).

The report also highlighted two proposed virements in excess of £150,000 which, in accordance with Financial Regulations, required Authority approval. The proposed virements related to:

- The increase in the Communications Budget line by £0.293million to fund the cost of Firelink charges (£0.506m) over and above the existing budget as a result of changes to the charging arrangements which has resulted in individual Fire and Rescue Authorities being charged for their share of the regional Service Fees. This virement will be offset by a corresponding increase in the Grants and Reimbursements income budget, and;
- the transfer of £0.258m from the ICT Equipment budget line to External Fees and Services to reflect the changes in how the original allocation for the business transformation programme is to be spent (the total sum for business transformation allocated by the Fire and Rescue Authority remains the same).

The Treasurer advised the Committee that there were no further recommendations at this time on how the projected underspend should be utilised. This would be further considered at the budget meeting of the Committee and again at year-end once the final outturn position was known.

Councillor Yeomans drew attention to the need for training for Members of the Committee in advance of the budget setting process in terms of the new requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) which the Treasurer undertook to pursue.

Reference was made to the projected overspend of £0.291m in respect of Uniforms and what level of budget was to be set for this in 2011/12 bearing this in mind. The Treasurer reported that there had been a longstanding issue in respect of the implementation of new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) but that the funding model had previously been agreed by the Authority. The Chief Fire Officer added that, as the national Integrated Clothing Project contract was not mandatory, other options for the provision of PPE and work wear were being considered to ensure best value was obtained. He indicated that any alternative options would be delivered within funding already approved by the Authority and that Members would be kept informed as to the outcome.

RESOLVED

- (a) that, in accordance with Financial Regulations, the Authority be recommended to approve those budget virements described in paragraph 8.1 of report RC/10/17 and illustrated in the Appendix to these Minutes;
- (b) That, subject to (a) above, the budget monitoring position in relation to projected spending against the 2010/2011 revenue budget be noted.

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 10.47hours.

**APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON
29 NOVEMBER 2010**

Minute RC/18(a) – Virements requiring Authority approval in accordance with Financial Regulations

Budget Line	From £m	To £m	Reason
Grants and Reimbursements Communications	(0.293)	0.293	<p>Up until June 2010 the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) have paid for the annual Service Fees associated with the usage of the new national radio system (Firelink).</p> <p>From July 2010 the charging arrangements have changed so as individual FRSs will now be charged for their share of the regional Service Fees. For 2010-11 the total charge for DSFRA will be £0.506m. The CLG will fund the difference between this cost and the cost of legacy radio systems, which are already included in the base budget, through New Burdens grant. For DSFRA the amount of New Burdens grant has been announced as £0.293m,</p> <p>This proposed virement is to increase the Communications budget line by £0.293m to fund the cost of Firelink charges over and above existing budget, with a corresponding increase in the Grants and Reimbursements income budget.</p>
Furniture and Equipment External Fees and Services	(0.258)	0.258	<p>Included in the base budget for this financial year is an allocation of £0.555m to fund the initial costs associated with the business transformation programme.</p> <p>This proposed virement is to move an amount of £0.258m from the ICT Equipment budget line to External Fees and Services to reflect the change in how the original allocation for the business transformation programme is to be spent.</p> <p>The total sum for business transformation allocated by the Fire Authority remains the same.</p>